

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A method of transferring data in a processor based system, the system comprising a link bus, said link bus comprising a hub device and a plurality of link bus segments each comprising a plurality of lines for communicating commands, addresses, and data, and a status line, each link bus segment being coupled to said hub device and one respective satellite device of said link bus to form a point-to-point link between said hub and respective satellite device, one of said respective satellite device being a first device, coupled to a processor coupled to said hub device via by a processor bus and coupled to a memory device coupled to said hub device via a memory bus, by a memory bus, said hub device being directly connected to a first device by a link bus, the link bus having a status line, said method comprising the steps of:

issuing, from one of the first device and the hub device, a data transfer request on the link bus;

obtaining a status of the request by observing the status line of said link bus during a first predetermined window of time;

determining from the obtained request status whether a data transfer corresponding to the request should be initiated;

initiating the data transfer by transferring data on the link bus if it is determined from the observed request status that the data transfer should be initiated;

obtaining a status of the initiated transfer by observing the status line of said link bus during a second predetermined window of time; and

determining from the obtained transfer status whether the initiated data transfer should be stalled.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the data transfer request is a command packet message constructed in accordance with a protocol of the link bus.

3. (original): The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of driving, from an intended target of the transfer, the request status onto the status line based on information contained in the command packet message.

4. (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the information within the command packet comprises at least a size of the data transfer.

5. (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the information within the command packet comprises at least a size and type of the data transfer.

6. (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the information within the command packet comprises at least a size, attribute, and type of the data transfer.

7. (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining whether the transfer should be retried at a subsequent time if it is determined from the observed request status that the data transfer should not be initiated.

8. (original): The method of claim 7 further comprising rescheduling the transfer if it is determined from the observed request status that the transfer should be retried.

9. (original): The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of driving, from an intended target of the transfer, the request status onto the status line based on information contained in the transfer request.

10. (original): The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of determining whether the transfer should be aborted if it is determined from the observed request status that the data transfer should not be initiated and should not be retried.

11. (original): The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of aborting the transfer if it is determined from the observed request status that the transfer should be aborted.

12. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said aborting step comprises:

bit bucketing write operations on the issuing device; and

returning a predetermined logical value for all read operations on the issuing device.

13. (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the request status is driven onto the status line by a pull-up device connected to the status line.

14. (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of initiating a data transfer stall if it is determined from the observed transfer status that the data transfer should be stalled.

15. (original): The method of claim 14, wherein said step of initiating a data stall comprises:

determining if the initiated transfer is on an allowable data boundary; and

stopping the transfer if it is determined that the transfer is on an allowable data boundary.

16. (original): The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of driving, from a target of the initiated transfer, the transfer status onto the status line when the target must stall the transfer.

17. (original): The method of claim 14 further comprising:

obtaining a status of the stalled transfer by observing the status line during a third predetermined window of time;

determining from the obtained stalled transfer status whether the stalled data transfer should be continued; and

continuing the data transfer if it is determined from the observed stalled transfer status that the data transfer should be continued.

18. (currently amended): A method of transferring data in a processor based system, the system comprising a link bus, said link bus comprising a hub device and a plurality of link bus segments each comprising a plurality of lines for communicating commands, addresses, and data, and a status line, each link bus segment being coupled to said hub device and one respective satellite device of said link bus to form a point-to-point link directly connecting said hub and respective satellite device, one of said respective satellite devices being a first device, coupled to a processor coupled to said hub device via by a processor bus and coupled to a memory device coupled to said hub device via by a memory bus, said hub device being directly connected to a first device by a link bus, the link bus having a status line, said method comprising the steps of:

issuing, from one of the first device and the hub device, a data transfer request on the link bus;

obtaining a status of the request by observing the status line of said link bus during a first predetermined window of time;

determining from the obtained request status whether a data transfer corresponding to the request should be initiated;

initiating the data transfer by transferring data on the link bus if it is determined from the observed request status that the data transfer should be initiated;

determining if the initiated transfer should be stalled; and

if it is determined that the initiated transfer should be stalled, driving a stalled status indication on the status line of said link bus during a second predetermined window of time and stalling the transfer.

19. (original): The method of claim 18, wherein said step of initiating a data stall comprises:

determining if the initiated transfer is on an allowable data boundary; and

stopping the transfer if it is determined that the transfer is on an allowable data boundary.

20. (currently amended): A method of receiving data in a processor based system, the system comprising a link bus, said link bus comprising a hub device and a plurality of link bus segments each comprising a plurality of lines for communicating commands, addresses, and data, and a status line, each link bus segment being coupled to said hub

device and one respective device of said link bus to form a point-to-point link directly connecting said hub and respective satellite device, one of said respective satellite devices being a first device, coupled to a processor coupled to said hub device via by a processor bus and ~~coupled to~~ a memory device coupled to said hub device via by a memory bus, ~~said hub device being directly connected to a first device by a link bus, the link bus having a status line,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

detecting, at one of the first device and the hub device, a data transfer request on the link bus;

determining a status of a data transfer associated with the transfer request based on the transfer request;

driving the status on the status line of said link bus during a first predetermined window of time, wherein the status is selected from the group consisting of an accept status indicating that the transfer can be initiated and a retry status indicating that the transfer should be retried at a subsequent period of time;

obtaining a status of an initiated transfer of data over said link bus by observing the status line of said link bus during a second predetermined window of time; and

determining from the obtained transfer status whether the initiated data transfer should be stalled.

21. (original): The method of claim 20, wherein the data transfer request is a command packet message constructed in accordance with a protocol of the link bus.

22. (original): The method of claim 21, wherein the information within the command packet comprises at least a size of the data transfer and said step of determining the status of the transfer comprises:

determining whether the transfer can be accepted based on the size of the transfer;

driving the status line with the accept status if it is determined that the transfer can be accepted; and

driving the status line with the retry status if it is determined that the transfer cannot be accepted.

23. (original): The method of claim 21, wherein the information within the command packet comprises at least a size and type of the data transfer and said step of determining the status of the transfer comprises:

determining whether the transfer can be accepted based on the size and type of the data transfer;

driving the status line with the accept status if it is determined that the transfer can be accepted; and

driving the status line with the retry status if it is determined that the transfer cannot be accepted.

24. (original): The method of claim 21, wherein the information within the command packet comprises at least a size, attribute, and type of the data transfer and said step of determining the status of the transfer comprises:

determining whether the data transfer can be accepted based on the size, attribute and type of the transfer;

driving the status line with the accept status if it is determined that the transfer can be accepted; and

driving the status line with the retry status if it is determined that the transfer cannot be accepted.

25. (previously presented): The method of claim 20 further comprising the act of initiating a data transfer stall if it is determined from the observed transfer status that the data transfer should be stalled.

26. (original): The method of claim 25, wherein said step of initiating a data stall comprises ignoring any data transferred on the link bus.

27. (original): The method of claim 25 further comprising:

obtaining a status of the stalled transfer by observing the status line during a third predetermined window of time;

determining from the obtained stalled transfer status whether the stalled data transfer should be continued; and

continuing the data transfer if it is determined from the observed stalled transfer status that the data transfer should be continued.

28. (original): The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of driving, from a target of the initiated transfer, a target stall status onto the status line when the target must stall the transfer.

29. (original): The method of claim 28 further comprising:

driving, from the target, another target stall status onto the status line when the target determines that the data transfer should be continued.

30. (currently amended): A method of transferring data in a processor based system, the system comprising a link bus, said link bus comprising a hub device and a plurality of link bus segments, each comprising a plurality of lines for communicating commands, addresses, and data, and a status line, each link bus segment being coupled to said hub device and one respective device of said link bus to form a point-to-point link directly connecting said hub and respective satellite device, one of said respective satellite devices being a first device, coupled to a processor coupled to said hub device via by a processor bus and coupled to a memory device coupled to said hub device via

by a memory bus, ~~said hub device being directly connected to a first device by a link bus, the link bus having a status line~~, said method comprising the steps of:

issuing, from one of the first device and the hub device, a data transfer request on the link bus;

detecting, at the other one of the first device and the hub device, the data transfer request on the link bus;

determining a status of a data transfer associated with the transfer request based on the detected transfer request;

driving the status of the data transfer on the status line of said link bus during a first predetermined window of time;

obtaining the status of the transfer by observing the status line of said link bus during the first predetermined window of time;

determining from the obtained status whether the data transfer corresponding to the request should be initiated;

initiating the data transfer by transferring data on the link bus if it is determined from the observed status that the data transfer should be initiated;

determining if the initiated transfer should be stalled; and

if it is determined that the initiated transfer should be stalled, driving a stalled status indication on the status line of said link bus during a second predetermined window of time and stalling the transfer.

31. (original): The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of determining whether the transfer should be retried at a subsequent time if it is determined from the observed status that the data transfer should not be initiated.

32. (original): The method of claim 31 further comprising rescheduling the transfer if it is determined from the observed status that the transfer should be retried.

33. (original): The method of claim 31 further comprising the step of determining whether the transfer should be aborted if it is determined from the observed status that the data transfer should not be initiated and should not be retried.

34. (original): The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of aborting the transfer if it is determined from the observed status that the transfer should be aborted.

35. (original): The method of claim 34, wherein said aborting step comprises:

bit bucketing write operations on the issuing device; and

returning a predetermined logical value for all read operations on the issuing device.

36. (original): The method of claim 34, wherein the status is driven onto the status line by a pull-up device connected to the status line.

37. (currently amended): A processor system comprising:

a processor; and

a link bus, said link bus comprising,

a link hub, said link hub being connected to said processor via a processor bus;
and

a plurality of link bus segments, each comprising a first bus for communicating commands, addresses, and data, and a status line, each link bus segment being coupled to said hub device and one device of said link bus to form a point-to-point link directly connecting said hub and respective link bus device, one of said respective link bus devices being a satellite device; and

~~a link bus directly connected between said link hub and said satellite device, said link bus comprising a status line and a first bus, one of said link hub and said satellite device being a bus master and the other of said link hub and satellite device being a target,~~

wherein

one of said link hub and said satellite device is a bus master and the other of said link hub and satellite device is a target,

said master issues a data transfer request on said first bus,

obtains a status of the request by observing said status line of said link bus during a first predetermined window of time,

determines from the obtained request status whether a data transfer corresponding to the request should be initiated,

initiates the data transfer by transferring data over said first bus when the data transfer should be initiated,

obtains a status of the initiated transfer by observing said status line of said link bus during a second predetermined window of time, and

determines from the obtained transfer status whether the initiated data transfer should be stalled.

38. (original): The system of claim 37, wherein the data transfer request is a command packet message constructed in accordance with a protocol of said link bus.

39. (original): The system of claim 38, wherein said command packet comprises at least a size of the data transfer.

40. (original): The system of claim 38, wherein said command packet comprises at least a size and type of the data transfer.

41. (original): The system of claim 38, wherein said command packet comprises at least a size, attribute, and type of the data transfer.

42. (original): The system of claim 37, wherein said master determines whether the transfer should be retried at a subsequent time when it is determined from the observed request status that the data transfer should not be initiated.

43. (original): The system of claim 42, wherein said master reschedules the transfer when the transfer should be retried.

44. (original): The system of claim 42, wherein said master determines whether the transfer should be aborted when it is determined from the observed request status that the data transfer should not be initiated and should not be retried.

45. (original): The system of claim 44 wherein said master aborts the transfer when the transfer should be aborted.

46. (previously presented): The system of claim 44, wherein said master performs bit bucketing of write operations and returns a predetermined logical value for all read operations when the transfer should be aborted.

47. (original): The system of claim 42, wherein said status line is coupled to a pull-up device and the request status is driven onto said status line by said pull-up device.

48. (previously presented): The system of claim 37, wherein said master initiates a data transfer stall when the data transfer should be stalled.

49. (original): The system of claim 48, wherein said master initiates a data stall by determining if the initiated transfer is on an allowable data boundary and stopping the transfer when the transfer is on an allowable data boundary.

50. (original): The system of claim 48, wherein said target drives the transfer status onto said status line when said target must stall the transfer.

51. (original): The system of claim 48, wherein said master obtains a status of the stalled transfer by observing said status line during a third predetermined window of time, determines from the obtained stalled transfer status whether the stalled data transfer should be continued, and continues the data transfer when the data transfer should be continued.

52. (previously presented): The system of claim 37, wherein when said master determines if the initiated transfer should be stalled, said master drives a stalled status indication on the status line during the second predetermined window of time and stalls the transfer.

53. (original): The system of claim 52, wherein said master initiates the data stall by determining if the initiated transfer is on an allowable data boundary and stopping the transfer when the transfer is on an allowable data boundary.

54. (original): The system of claim 37, wherein said link bus is a source strobed bus.

55. (original): The system of claim 54, wherein said first bus is a command/address/data bus.

56. (currently amended): A processor system comprising:

a processor; and

a link bus, said link bus comprising,

a link hub connected to said processor via a processor bus; and

a plurality of link bus segments, each comprising a first bus for communicating commands, addresses, and data, and a status line, each link bus segment being coupled to said hub device and one device of said link bus to form a point-to-point link directly connecting said hub and respective link bus device, one of said respective link bus devices being a satellite device; and

~~a link bus directly connected between said link hub and said satellite device, said link bus comprising a status line and a first bus, one of said link hub and said satellite device being a bus master and the other of said link hub and satellite device being a target,~~

wherein

one of said link hub and said satellite device is a bus master and the other of said link hub and satellite device is a target,

said target detects a data transfer request on said first bus,

determines a status of a data transfer associated with the transfer request based on the transfer request, and

drives the status on said status line of said link bus during a first predetermined window of time, wherein the status is selected from the group consisting of an accept status indicating that the transfer can be initiated and a retry status indicating that the transfer should be retried at a subsequent period of time, and wherein said target obtains a status of an initiated transfer of data over said link bus by observing said status line of said link bus during a second predetermined window of time, and determines from the obtained transfer status whether the initiated data transfer should be stalled.

57. (original): The system of claim 56, wherein said link bus is a source strobed bus.

58. (original): The system of claim 56, wherein said first bus is a command/address/data bus.

59. (original): The system of claim 56, wherein the data transfer request is a command packet message constructed in accordance with a protocol of said link bus.

60. (original): The system of claim 59, wherein said command packet comprises at least a size of the data transfer and said target determines the status of the transfer by determining whether the transfer can be accepted based on the size of the transfer, driving said status line with the accept status when the transfer can be accepted, and driving said status line with the retry status when the transfer cannot be accepted.

61. (original): The system of claim 59, wherein said command packet comprises at least a size and type of the data transfer and said target determines the status of the transfer by determining whether the transfer can be accepted based on the size and type of the data transfer, driving said status line with the accept status when the transfer can be accepted, and driving said status line with the retry status when the transfer cannot be accepted.

62. (previously presented): The system of claim 56, wherein said target initiates a data transfer stall when the data transfer should be stalled.

63. (original): The system of claim 62, wherein said target initiates the data stall by ignoring any data transferred on the first bus.

64. (original): The system of claim 62, wherein said target obtains a status of the stalled transfer by observing said status line during a third predetermined window of time, determines from the obtained stalled transfer status whether the stalled data transfer should be continued, and continues the data transfer when the data transfer should be continued.

65. (currently amended): A processor system comprising:

a processor; and

a link bus, said link bus comprising,

a link hub connected to said processor via a processor bus; and

a plurality of link bus segments, each comprising a first bus for communicating commands, addresses, and data, and a status line, each link bus segment being coupled to said hub device and one device of said link bus to form a point-to-

point link directly connecting said hub and respective link bus device, one of said respective link bus devices being a satellite device; and

~~a link bus directly connected between said link hub and said satellite device, said link bus comprising a status line and a first bus, one of said link hub and said satellite device being a bus master and the other of said link hub and satellite device being a target,~~

wherein

one of said link hub and said satellite device is a bus master and the other of said link hub and satellite device is a target; and

said master and target being able to at least initiate, disconnect, retry, abort and stall data transfers on said first bus by time multiplexing disconnecting and pacing status information on said status line.

66. (original): The system of claim 65, wherein said disconnecting information comprises an accept status indicating that a data transfer can be initiated and a retry status indicating that the transfer should be retried at a subsequent period of time.

67. (original): The system of claim 65, wherein said status line is connected to a pull-up device and a data transfer abort status is driven onto said status line by said pull-up device.

68. (original): The system of claim 67, wherein said pull-up device is a resistor.

69. (original): The system of claim 65, wherein said pacing information comprises a stall transfer status indicating that a data transfer should be stalled and a continue status indicating that a stalled transfer should be continued.